

November 2007 Newsletter

IOWA AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE

8TH ANNUAL *LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!* A GREAT SUCCESS IN 2007!

OVER 1 MILLION PEOPLE ATTENDED *LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!* EVENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ON OCTOBER 18TH!

Not only was the Empire State Building lit-up in celebration of the 8th annual Lights On Afterschool! celebrations across the country, but all 50 Governors proclaimed October 18th, 2007 Lights On Afterschool! day in their states.

Over 34 Lights On events were held in Iowa alone. The Iowa Afterschool Alliance staff had the pleasure of attending the Clinton Community School District's Lights On Afterschool! celebration at Alliant Energy Field in Clinton, Iowa on October 18th. Local elected officials and school administrators in attendance were: Senator Roger Stewart of Senate District 13, Senator Frank Wood of Senate District 42, Representative Tom Schueller of House District 25, and Clinton Mayor LaMetta Wynn. Also in making a statement on the importance of afterschool was Erika Argersinger, Policy Director of the Afterschool Alliance in Washington, D.C.. The community support for afterschool in Clinton was apparent with over 800 community members in attendance as well!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 9th annual Lights On Afterschool! on October 16th, 2008!

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies. For more information, please contact Brooke Findley at bfindley@sppg.com or 515-243-2000.



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance would like to thank Loras Osterhaus and the staff of the Clinton Community Schools for all their hard work on *Lights On Afterschool!*

PLEASE SEND US YOUR LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL! PHOTOS!

We want to show off Iowa's support for afterschool in our state!

You can send your pictures to Michelle at mrich@sppg.com.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

November 13, 2007: President Bush vetoes Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill that included a \$100 million increase in funding for afterschool.

The House of Representatives failed to override the President's veto on November 15th with a vote of 277-141. The bill will now go back to the chamber of origin for further action.

For more information on this bill please visit [The Library of Congress online](#).

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS TO HOLD FOCUS GROUP ON AFTERSCHOOL ISSUES

The S3 State Leadership Team continues to collect information about afterschool in Iowa. A focus group in Sioux City later this month will seek the input of community leaders to better inform the work of the Supporting Student Success (S3) State Leadership team.

The S3 State Leadership team is a group with the long-term vision that children and youth are safe and learning when they are not in school. The team is comprised of Iowa General Assembly members, a representative from the Governor's office, a representative from the Attorney General's office, state agency advisors and representatives, and the Iowa Afterschool Alliance network lead. The intended results of the S3 planning process are that extended learning opportunities are used effectively to reduce Iowa's student achievement gap and to ensure that the state's high school graduates are ready to succeed in career training, college, and/or the workplace.

PHOTOS FROM CLINTON LIGHTS ON



The weather didn't hold off the crowd! Over 800 attended the celebration despite very high chances of rain.



Clinton afterschool students congregate before the event kicks off.



The Clinton High School Cheerleaders perform for the audience.

This policy-focused effort is sponsored and funded in Iowa by the National Governors Association and National Conference of State Legislators, and supported by the CS Mott Foundation. Iowa is one of six states participating in the state leadership effort.

For more information on S3 please contact Erin Drinnin at (515) 243-2000 or edrinnin@sppg.com

RECENT STUDY REVEALS BLACK PARENTS' OPINIONS ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN ENROLLED IN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Black Alliance for Educational Options, with funding from the CS Mott Foundation, conducted a study of Black parents who have children or adolescents enrolled in afterschool programs. The following is a brief summary of the study's findings.

Outcomes Black parents are looking for from an afterschool program:

- Better grades in school
- Better attitude by learning discipline
- Greater maturity
- Broader exposure to diverse peers and experiences
- Increased exposure to male role models

Afterschool activities Black parents say their child or adolescent likes:

- Dancing and hip hop classes
- Arts and crafts
- Team sports
- Interaction with other students
- Snacks
- Computers
- Field trips
- Academics

Barriers to afterschool access of Black parents identified by the study:

- An unwelcoming atmosphere
- Proximity from afterschool program to the home, school, or both too far
- Lack of transportation
- Affordability
- Parental literacy

Parents in this study primarily learned about afterschool programs from one of four sources:

- Word of mouth from other adults including parents, neighbors, or friends
- Their child and their child's friend(s) speaking favorably about the program
- School personnel
- Flyers

To access the full text of this study please visit the [Black Alliance for Educational Options website](#).

PROMISING AFTERSCHOOL PRACTICES

Published by New Jersey After 3 in June 2007, this compilation of promising practices from New Jersey highlights the best of afterschool programming in that state. A sample of the programs featured in this publication include:

- **Communities in Schools of New Jersey's Peer Leadership Program**
Designed for fifth and sixth graders, Project Leadership has three roles for student volunteers: help with homework, assist with activities for younger children, and help in the afterschool program's office.
- **Jewish Renaissance Foundation's Student-run School & Community Newsletter**
The "Newsletter Connection" is a student-led writing and reporting club that produces several newsletters each year. The practice is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop communication skills and establish relationships within their community.

- **Educational Information & Resource Center's Student Walking Club**

Two days a week children walk together around the school building tracking their walking mileage with pedometers. Mileage is depicted cumulatively on a distance chart. Once the walk is complete, the children update the mileage chart and figure out how many miles are remaining to complete the planned journey.

For the full text of this publication please visit the [New Jersey After 3 website](#).

PROJECT AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

YOUR PLEDGE OF SUPPORT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!

Begun in 2004 as Project 2010, Project Afterschool for All is a national movement striving to make universal afterschool a legislative priority across the country. Signing on to Project Afterschool for All is easy. Simply go to the [Project Afterschool for All website](#) to sign up!

Pledging your support to Project Afterschool for All is more important than ever. Legislative sessions are gearing up and we need to let our leaders know our policy priorities! The Iowa Afterschool Alliance has signed on its support for the Project, and fellow supporters include:

[Ottumwa YMCA](#)

[Iowa State University](#)

[Iowa Commission on the Status of Women](#)

[Keokuk Community School District](#)

[New Directions, Davenport](#)

Over 16,000 individuals, civic leaders, organizations, and businesses have pledged their support nationally for Project Afterschool for All. Please join us in supporting this revolutionary movement!

Please visit the [Project Afterschool For All website](#) for more information and to sign up as a partner.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

GRANTS TRAINING OFFERED NOVEMBER 26-30, 2007

Junior Achievement of Central Iowa is offering the Grantsmanship Training Program November 26-30, 2007 in Des Moines. Those interested are invited to participate in this one-of-a-kind workshop widely recognized as the "gold standard" of grants training.

For more information please visit [Grantsmanship Center website](#), or Junior Achievement of Central Iowa at 515-279-9602.

YPQA REFRESHER TRAINING OFFERED DECEMBER 3, 2007

9:00am to 3:00 pm, United Way, 1111 Ninth St, Des Moines

The Youth Development Partnership is offering a "refresher" training on the YPQA Youth Program Quality Assessment Monday, December 3 for the first 25 people that register. This is designed as a refresher for those who attended the two-day training in August of 2006 and have not yet had an opportunity to take advantage of the assessment by self-assessing their own program

Those who did not attend the training in 2006 but want to learn more about this assessment tool are also welcome to register.

To register please visit the [United Way of Central Iowa website](#).

BEYOND SCHOOL HOURS XI: BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE

National Conference February 14-17, 2008, Jacksonville, Florida

Planned in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

Sample sessions include:

"Adding the Digital Arts to Your Afterschool Program"

"Building Support for Summer Programs"

"Homework Time in Afterschool: Opportunity,
Obligation, or Out!"

"Families and Schools Together: engaging Parents
and Community in Education"

For more information please contact Michelle Rich at
(515) 243-2000 or mrich@sppg.com.

As always, the Iowa Afterschool Alliance is here
to serve you. Please visit the [IAA website](#) for more
information and links to our afterschool partners.

